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CITY OF CHICHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE STATE OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

OF THE

CITY OF CHICHESTER

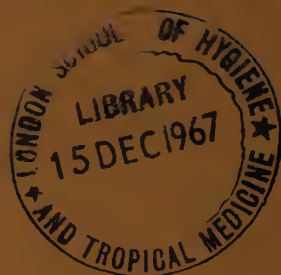
For the Year 1945.

BY

H. MICHAEL AYRES,

Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
NORTH STREET,
CHICHESTER.

July, 1946.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my fourth annual report on the health of the City of Chichester for the year 1945. This report has been prepared on the same lines as the last few years, in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health, and is therefore definitely confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the health of the City during the year.

As in previous years, all necessary arrangements have been made for the preservation of essential records so that at a later date a full report can be made dealing with a period over which only curtailed reports have been made.

The health of the City during 1945 has maintained its high standard, which is very gratifying. As I pointed out in my previous report, it had been felt that, because of the special circumstances during the war and post-war periods, there might have been some serious effect on the health conditions of the City.

The provision of additional protective foods, especially for expectant and nursing mothers and young children, has been continued, and it is quite evident that the nutritional state of our school children is good.

The scheme of the Ministry of Education for school meals and milk has been continued and extended and has proved itself a most wise and effective scheme.

HEALTH STATISTICS

The Registrar-General has now estimated that the civil population for 1945 is 15,890 as compared with 15,880 for 1944 and 17,530 for 1939.

It will be appreciated that although these statistics are computed by the Registrar-General as accurately as possible, they must be accepted with some reservation because of the moving population during the war period. Therefore, in considering the points which are subsequently brought to your notice, it must be understood that the rates per 1,000 population are not quite so accurate as in pre-war days.

Again, it should be understood that, in a City with a small population, a very small variation as shown in births and deaths etc., will materially affect the appropriate rates per 1,000 population

1. BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES :

There has been another slight decrease in births from 285 in 1944 to 272 in 1945. The 1945 birth rate is 17.11 as compared with 17.95 for 1944 per 1,000 population and compared with 16.1 for 1945 for England and Wales.

It will be noticed that there is a natural increase in population, *i.e.* the difference between births and deaths of 81 (272 minus 191).

The illegitimate births for 1945 were 36 as compared with 17 in 1944.

2. DEATHS AND DEATH RATES :

There was a slight decrease in deaths from 213 in 1944 to 191 in 1945, the rates respectively being 13.47 per 1,000 population and 12.02 per 1,000 population. The death rate for 1945 for England and Wales was 11.4 per 1,000 population.

(a) Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis :

The death rate for 1945 remained the same as that for 1944, namely 0.50 per 1,000 population as compared with 0.619 for England and Wales.

(b) Maternal Mortality Rate :

It is most pleasing to be able to report that there were no maternal deaths during 1945.

(c) Infantile Mortality Rate :

There were 6 deaths of infants under one year of age in 1945, as compared with 19 in 1944, the death rates being respectively 22.05 and 66.66. The rate for England and Wales during 1945 was 46.

(d) Cancer Death Rate :

There was a slight increase in the deaths from Cancer from 34 in 1944 to 35 in 1945.

3. CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES :

During 1945 there was a marked increase in the number of notifications, due chiefly to measles, pneumonia and dysentery.

There were 478 cases of infectious disease notified in 1945, as compared with 217 in 1944. Out of this total, 94 cases of Infectious Disease notified were non-residents and from the Hospitals in the City, and a very large proportion of the City cases were measles referred to later in the report.

It will be noted that there were only two cases of diphtheria and no deaths.

As far as it can be ascertained neither of these cases had been artificially immunised.

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified fell from 78 in 1944 to 10 in 1945 and whooping-cough from 64 in 1944 to 11 in 1945.

On the other hand there was a large increase in the number of measles notifications from 10 in 1944 to 314 in 1945, and, as indicated above, in pneumonia from 42 in 1944 to 96 in 1945, and in dysentery from 4 in 1944 to 33 in 1945.

It must again be emphasised that whenever cases of infectious disease occur in any of the hospitals within the City boundary they are notified to the Health Department and have to be included in the City's reports, irrespective of whether the cases are normally of persons resident in the area, or have been admitted to one of the City's Hospitals from some other area.

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION :

The records for diphtheria immunisation in the City are shown on a subsequent page, and it is gratifying to note that a total of 4,406 children have been artificially immunised since 1936, and that it is estimated that 58.64 per cent. under 5 years of age and 93.06 per cent. between the ages of 5 and 15 years of age have been protected.

There have again been many efforts made, both nationally and locally, to increase the percentage of children protected under the age of 5 years and it is principally on this group that attention will have to be centred in the future. It is to be hoped that, with the inclusion of Nursery Schools within the National Education System, a larger number of children of under 5 years of age will receive immunisation.

5. SCABIES AND VENEREAL DISEASE :

Special notes which show that full facilities are available for appropriate treatment are contained in the body of this report.

6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD :

Very valuable work has again been carried out by Mr. Nash and it will be noted that in the special report on a subsequent page details are given of a large amount of meat which has, during the year, been condemned and destroyed. In addition, a considerable amount of food sampling has been carried out by the Inspector of Weights and Measures.

7. HOUSING :

The Council has given urgent consideration to the provision of suitable houses and special attention has been paid to the effective lay-out of various types of houses.

At the 31st December, 1945, 49 Council houses were under construction. In addition schemes were under contemplation for the building of 144 houses on the Whyke Estate, of 12 flats and 40 houses on the Whyke Extension Estate, and 120 houses on the Spitalfield Lane Extension Scheme.

Consideration has also, throughout the year, been paid to the requisition, and conversion, where necessary, of empty houses to afford accommodation for families in urgent need.

8. RODENT CONTROL :

During the year, some complaints were received and reports that rats had been seen on different premises, as a result of which 71 premises were inspected and 40 infestations dealt with.

9. WATER SUPPLIES :

The water supplies of the district maintained their very high standard and I am deeply indebted to Mr. R. A. J. Cork, the City Engineer and Surveyor, and later to the newly appointed Water Engineer, Mr. A. N. Burgess, for their unstinted co-operation.

Further details will be found in the body of the Report.

During the year an exceptionally large amount of work has been carried out by the staff of the Health Department, and I should like again to place on record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance given to me by Mr. Nash, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, also by the Chief Clerk, Miss Morris, and the other members of the staff of the Public Health Department.

To the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee I am greatly indebted for the encouragement and sympathy shown to me, and I would again express my keen appreciation of the most close co-operation of the Town Clerk and the Chief Officials of the other Departments.

I again wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation shown me by the General Practitioners and of the invaluable contribution towards public health made by the general public.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
H. M. AYRES,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1 General Statistics

Area in acres	2,869
Population (Census 1921)	12,413
Population (Census 1931)	13,912
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (1945)	15,890
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	2,647
Number of inhabited houses (1931)	2,869
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921) ...	2,721
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931) ...	3,187
Rateable value	£159,743
Sum represented by a penny rate	£620

2 Social Conditions and Occupations

The City is chiefly a residential district, the outlying parts are agricultural, and there are no occupations which have a definite prejudicial effect on health.

3 Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	
Births :				Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 17.11
Live Births :				
Legitimate ...	236	106	130	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) births 25.08
Illegitimate ...	36	16	20	
	<u>272</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>150</u>	
Still Births :				
Legitimate ...	6	3	3	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 12.02
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1	
	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	
Deaths :	191	89	92	

Total number of deaths occurring in Public Institutions ...	990
(Percentage of total deaths)	83.80
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :	
From sepsis	0
From other causes	0
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age ...	6
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	22.05
There were 236 legitimate children and 6 deaths, therefore the death rate per 1,000 is	25.42
There were 36 illegitimate children born and no deaths.	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	35
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping-Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years of age) ...	2

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth rate	16.1	(17.6)
Death Rate	11.4	(11.6)
Infant Mortality rate	46	(46)

(The figures in parenthesis represent the rates for the year 1944.)

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following are details of cases notified during 1945, showing in the age analysis columns the final figures after subsequent re-diagnosis.

RESIDENTS															
	Originally Notified	Age Analysis (after correction of diagnosis)												TOTAL	
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 plus		
Scarlet Fever ...	10	—	—	2	—	1	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	10	
Diphtheria ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	
Whooping Cough ...	11	3	—	1	1	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	11	
Measles ...	314	11	36	48	33	39	127	10	4	5	—	—	1	314	
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Acute Pneumonia ...	96	9	2	5	4	3	2	3	6	9	12	19	22	96	
Dysentery ...	33	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	3	12	9	33	
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	7	
TOTALS ...	478	25	39	56	38	45	140	14	14	28	15	31	33	478	

TUBERCULOSIS

Nine new cases (compared with 15 in 1944) were added to the register during 1945 :

Pulmonary Males	5	Non-pulmonary Males	—
Pulmonary Females	3	Non-pulmonary Females	1
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	3		1
	<hr/>		<hr/>

There were 8 deaths from tuberculosis during the years, 7 from pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This gives a death rate of 0.50 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st December, 1945, was 185 as compared with 177 at the 31st December, 1944.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

As in previous years, swabs for examination for the presence of K.L.B., or *Haemolytic streptococci*, and specimens for typhoid bacilli have been submitted to Dr. F. Standish for examination during 1945, both by the Health Department and by general practitioners.

The number of examinations of swabs and specimens submitted was as follows :

<i>Specimens</i>	<i>No. submitted for Examination</i>
(1) Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	62
(2) Swabs for Scarlet Fever	17

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year 1945, 277 children have been inoculated against diphtheria and approximately 58.64 per cent. of the children under five years of age and 93.06 per cent. of the children between the ages of 5 and 15 years have been immunised.

Diphtheria immunisation is purely voluntary and completely free of cost.

The following are details of children who have been immunised against diphtheria :

YEAR	AGES													14 & over	TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1936-7	60	56	69	92	139	130	138	142	140	126	145	139	121	32	1529
1938	—	—	—	—	3	5	2	4	2	1	—	1	1	1	20
1940	8	18	19	9	32	52	24	22	13	11	20	10	15	5	258
1941	45	97	64	79	75	86	96	83	68	80	81	62	54	72	1042
1942	137	73	60	40	63	54	32	35	27	21	22	24	19	16	623
1943	136	45	25	30	34	28	13	20	18	18	27	14	17	6	431
1944	156	17	3	7	10	8	2	8	8	3	3	1	—	—	226
1945	—	163	34	21	8	16	9	4	4	6	6	3	1	2	277
TOTAL														4406	

As far as can be ascertained, no clinical case of diphtheria has occurred amongst these children.

SCABIES

The Scabies Order was introduced in October, 1941.

There is no compulsory notification but the Order gives power to inspect premises, and secure the treatment of persons suffering from scabies.

School children are seen at the Clinic in Chapel Street, and if necessary, referred for treatment to St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

Considerable publicity has been given to this subject.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL :

The City Isolation Hospital has 30 beds. There are separate blocks for scarlet fever and diphtheria, together with a modern cell block. It is supported wholly by the City Council, but admits patients from other areas by agreement.

The following cases of infectious diseases were admitted during 1945 :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	38
Diphtheria	...	...	14
Chicken Pox	...	...	13
Whooping Cough	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	3
Meningitis	...	...	1
Mumps	...	...	4
Measles	...	...	47
Dysentery	...	...	1
German Measles	...	...	2
Observation	...	...	14
			<hr/> 139 <hr/>

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL :

(1) Tuberculosis :

There is no change from the previous year with regard to the treatment of tuberculosis. Cases are admitted either to Aldingbourne House (accommodation 70 persons) or to a ward at Worthing Isolation Hospital, Swandean (accommodation 12 beds),

whilst surgical cases are admitted to St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, to the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate, or to the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, Hants. (for children).

(2) Maternity :

The County Council arranged for resident and evacuated expectant mothers to be admitted to :

	No. of beds
(a) Brighton Hospital for Women ...	2
(b) Southlands Hospital, Shoreham ...	20 (or more if available)
(c) Worthing Hospital Maternity Home	5 (shared with Worthing)
(d) Horsham Maternity Unit ...	18
(e) St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester	6 (4 for emergency cases)
(f) Improvised Maternity Homes at Haslemere, Hindhead and Woking	30

(3) Children :

The County Council arranges whenever necessary for the admission of children under the age of 12 months to the Alexandra Hospital for Children, Brighton. No Cases were received there during the year from this area.

(4) Smallpox :

The County Council's reservation of two beds in the Brighton Smallpox Hospital at Fulking remains unchanged.

(5) Mental :

The Graylingwell Hospital has an accommodation of 1,099 beds plus 300 E.M.S. beds.

(6) General :

St. Richard's Hospital has an accommodation of 578 beds which are available for general cases.

HOSPITALS NOT SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL, BUT AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT

The Royal West Sussex Hospital with 114 beds plus 220 E.M.S. beds.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

- A. For infectious diseases two motor ambulances are provided by the City Council and kept at the City Isolation Hospital.
- B. For non-infectious or accident cases, three motor ambulances and a sitting-case car are provided which are owned by the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Council contribute £50 per annum as a subscription towards the cost of running the ambulances. The service rendered is excellent.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

A. **Maternity and Child Welfare :**

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (consultation and treatment) is situated at Chapel Street under the control of the West Sussex County Council.

B. **School Clinics :**

School Clinics have been held as during the previous year and the service has been extended to evacuee school children.

C. **Tuberculosis Clinics :**

These have been held at Chapel Street, Chichester, as in previous years.

D. **Venereal Diseases :**

The County Council's arrangements for clinics to be held at Brighton, Worthing and Portsmouth are unchanged.

For men and women patients, General Practitioners' Clinics are held at Horsham and at St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

E. **Psychiatric Out-Patients' Clinic :**

This Clinic is held at the Royal West Sussex Hospital weekly at which Dr. Joshua Carse, the Medical Superintendent of Graylingwell Hospital, is the Honorary Consulting Psychiatrist.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

1. **General :**

This work is carried out by the Chichester District Nursing Association, working in conjunction with the West Sussex County Council.

2. **Infectious Diseases, Measles, etc.**

Nurses attached to the District Nursing Association visit cases of measles on occasion when required, and the City contributes £50 per annum for their services.

WATER

Funtington Source

The additional supply for the City from the new waterworks near Funtington was brought into use on October 19th, 1945. This source which is situated in a rural area at a point about four miles north-west of Chichester, consists of a well 200 feet deep, and a borehole 300 feet deep, connected together by an underground heading.

The raw water undergoes a process of purification by the addition of Chlorine at the Waterworks.

Four samples of raw water were submitted to the County's Public Health Laboratories for Bacteriological Examination' the results showing that organisms of the Coliform group were present in the first sample collected after the source had been put into use, but that they were absent in the subsequent samples.

Four samples of the chlorinated water from the supply mains which were also submitted to the County's Public Health Laboratories showed that organisms of the Coliform group were absent in 100 m.l. in each case.

One sample of water taken for chemical analysis had a total hardness of 15.4 grains per gallon, of which 3.2 grains per gallon remained as permanent hardness (after boiling).

Fishbourne Source :

The well at Fishbourne, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the City, remains the main source of supply.

Twenty-one samples of raw water were submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination, the results showing that organisms of the Coliform group were present in four samples.

Twenty-two samples of chlorinated water from the supply at private houses in the City showed that organisms of the Coliform group were absent in 100 m.l. in all cases.

Two samples of water taken for chemical analysis had an average total hardness of 17.9 grains per gallon, and permanent hardness (after boiling) averaged 4.9 grains per gallon.

General :

The results of the above examinations show the water AS SUPPLIED to be both chemically and bacteriologically satisfactory, and perfectly safe for drinking purposes.

HOUSING

Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority :

The Council own 531 houses :

Under the Additional Powers Act, 1919 ...	...	...	...	22
Under the Housing Act, 1923 ...	...	...	...	12
Under the Housing Act, 1924 ...	...	...	...	333
Under the Housing Act, 1930 ...	...	...	...	76
Under the Housing Act, 1936 ...	...	...	...	42
By other powers ...	...	...	...	46

Certain condemned houses have been requisitioned by the Council and made temporarily habitable.

No statutory action has been taken during the year.

There has been considerable difficulty during the year in the matter of labour and material, but every effort to maintain this important work has been continued and 288 visits have been made, notwithstanding the large amount of extra work which my department have been called upon to carry out.

The details of this work are omitted from this report but are always available.

Post-War Housing :

This matter is receiving serious consideration by the City Council.

- (a) The number of Council houses under construction on the 31st December, 1945, was 49.
- (b) The amount of land owned by the Corporation available for the erection of further houses at the 31st December, 1945, was 21.5 acres.
- (c) The schemes contemplated in addition to (a) at the 31st December, 1945 :
 - Whyke Estate, 144 houses ;
 - Whyke Extension, 12 flats and 40 houses ;
 - Spitalfield Lane Extension, 120 houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk sampling has been carried out as in previous years, and visits have been paid to cowsheds, dairies, bakehouses, stores and places where food is prepared and sold. The details of the foregoing inspections are available.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is the officer appointed under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. As part of the war-time arrangements for the distribution of meat, slaughtering for not only the City but the adjacent areas, has been concentrated into the City of Chichester.

The Ministry of Food have requisitioned three slaughter-houses in which to carry out this work, and visits are made at the time of slaughter or on completion, and all carcasses are inspected before distribution.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year 1945 was 16,012, made up as follows :

3545	Cattle
6290	Sheep
4448	Calves
1729	Pigs
<hr/>	
16012	
<hr/>	

The following have been condemned and destroyed :

147	Cattle
13	Calves
13	Sheep
18	Pigs
59 tons, 12 cwt., 59 lbs.	of meat and offals.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Pigs	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs
Number killed	1729	1848	1697	4448	6290
Number inspected	1729	1848	1697	4448	6290
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	2	23	4	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	61	16	528	10	266
Percentage of the number part-affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	3.54	0.86	31.53	0.22	4.22
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	11	1	121	8	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	67	—	568	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.51	0.05	40.60	0.18	—

The butchers' shops and vehicles are kept under observation and are satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937, AND SHOPS ACT, 1934 : EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BYE-LAWS AND EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS

Visits have been paid in accordance with the scope of these Acts and employment cards issued to suitable children.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

As a result of the campaign of the Ministry of Food, 40 reports of "rats seen" were received, 71 premises inspected, and 38 infestations dealt with, with an estimated total of 1855 rats killed.

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